

21. The connection elements according to claim 16, wherein the flexible lips have surface area enlargements near an end of the flexible lips.

22. The connection element according to claim 17, wherein the flexible lips have service area enlargements near an end of the flexible lips.

23. The connection element according to claim 16, wherein an opening in the body of the plug-in connection element tapers outward for receiving a corresponding taper.

24. The connection element according to claim 23, wherein the closure part has a collar on its end opposite the opening.

25. The connection element according to claim 23, wherein the closure part has a plurality of peripheral beads.

26. The connection element according to claim 25, wherein the closure part has a plurality of peripheral beads.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Line 8, delete "consists of" and insert therefore --preferably includes--.